

Stavudine

STAV-yoo-deen

Brand Name: Zerit



Stavudine, also known as Zerit or d4T, is a type of antiretroviral drug called a nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). This class of medicines blocks reverse transcriptase, a protein that HIV needs to make more copies of itself.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Stavudine was approved by the FDA on June 24, 1994, for use in combination with other antiretrovirals for the treatment of HIV infection in adults and children. Stavudine may also be used to prevent health care workers and others from getting HIV infection after they accidentally come into contact with the virus on the job; however, this practice does not have FDA approval. Stavudine does not cure or prevent HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing the virus to other people.

Dosage Information

Stavudine comes in liquid and capsule form.

Recommended Daily Dose

The recommended dose of stavudine is based on body weight. Patients weighing 132 lbs or more should take 40 mg twice a day; patients weighing less than 132 lbs should take 30 mg twice a day. The interval between doses of stavudine should be 12 hours. Doses for children are dependent upon their weight.

Some patients may benefit from different doses of stavudine. Patients with decreased kidney function and those on dialysis may need to take a lower dose. Patients should always take stavudine as prescribed by their doctors.

Contraindications

Individuals who have kidney or liver disease or an inflamed pancreas should tell a doctor before using this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, this medicine can cause some serious unwanted effects. A doctor should be notified right away if any of the

following side effects occur: burning, numbness, pain, or tingling in the hands, arms, feet, or legs; fever; joint or muscle aches; nausea; severe stomach pain; fever; skin rash; or vomiting.

Other side effects may be less serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of the medicine. Less serious side effects of this medicine include chills and fever; diarrhea; headache; loss of appetite or weight loss; mild stomach pain; shift in body fat location; trouble sleeping; or unusual tiredness or weakness.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), and herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Stavudine, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Stavudine AND HIV Infections.

Manufacturer Information

Stavudine
Bristol - Myers Squibb Co
PO Box 4500
Princeton, NJ 08543-4500
(800) 321-1335

Zerit
Bristol - Myers Squibb Co
PO Box 4500
Princeton, NJ 08543-4500
(800) 321-1335

Stavudine



For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET